



photo courtesy of Randy Perez

Demographic & Economic Information for Fort Belknap Reservation



**Fort
Belknap
Reservation**



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Fort Belknap Reservation

The Fort Belknap Reservation, anchored in Fort Belknap Agency, is the fifth largest reservation in the state, encompassing 651,648 acres of rolling plains, river breaks, and the Little Rocky Mountain range. It is home to 3,115 (49%) of the 6,422 Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné tribal members.

The majority of employment is provided by the Gros Ventre and Assiniboiné tribes, which employs 302 full-time and 102 part-time workers in tribal government. Fort Belknap College employs 55 staff members, and averages 20-30 graduates per year.

In October 2002, the Fort Belknap Indian Community (FBIC) launched the Fort Belknap 477 Employment and Training Program. The program integrates five tribal programs to provide comprehensive education, work-based learning, employment training, and related services that help individuals, families, and the community to overcome barriers to self-sufficiency. Eight hundred sixty-one adults participated in this vital program in 2007.

Little River Smoke House is a tribally-owned enterprise that produces smoked meat products including jerky, dry meat, snack sticks, and summer and spicy sausage from beef and buffalo. This enterprise employs five full-time and two part-time employees, and is overseen by seven board members. In January 2008, the Little River Smoke House received USDA certification.

The Fort Belknap Indian Community is self-insured on their Unemployment and Workers Compensation Programs by the Fort Belknap Insurance Company, started in 1990. The Tribes pay their premiums on both programs into the Insurance Company rather than the State or Federal Government. The Company operates their Unemployment and Workers Compensation Programs through codes approved by the Council which are similar to the State of Montana's codes. As of last year, Fort Belknap was the only Tribe in Montana to be self-insured with the Unemployment Compensation Program. Due to the self-insured status, the Insurance Company provides better service to clients' employees and processes claims faster. The Insurance Company works closely with other Tribal departments and the State of Montana.

FBIC is committed to career development from K-12, to postsecondary, to adult education with programs such as Talent Search (career awareness), Upward Bound (summer program with emphasis on Higher Ed), and the Tribal Business Information Center (entrepreneurial development). With nearly 29% of the population below the age of 18, the tribes realize they must continually build economic opportunities for the future. Of the four K-12 schools located in the FBIC, 99% of the students enrolled are Native American. Fort Belknap Community College has enrollment close to 200 for the 2007-08 school year. Currently, the tribes are slated to begin construction on a \$3 million water treatment facility this fall, and have completed feasibility studies for alternative energy development (ethanol) and wind energy, and have planted experimental plots of camelina. Other projects in development are a transit study, an airport feasibility study, and the renovation of houses under the Fort Belknap Housing & Tax Credit Program. The FBIC continues to attract tourism by offering big game and recreational hunting guides and outfitters, as well as the re-opening of Horse Capture Community Park Tourism Center.

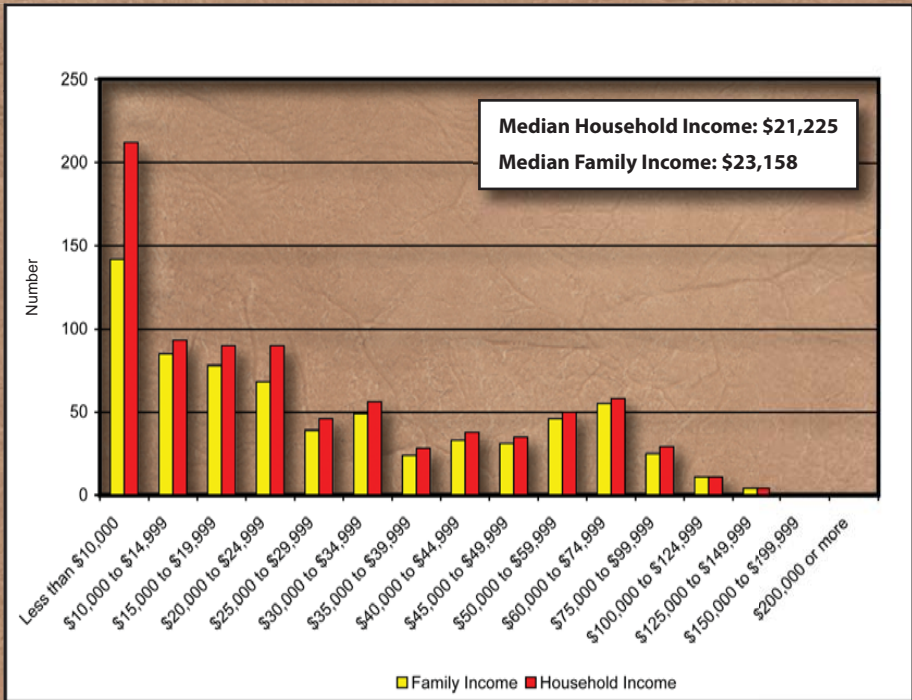
Fort Belknap Reservation - Agricultural Statistics

2002 Census of Agriculture

	All Farms	Farms Operated by American Indians
Farms		
Farms: (number)	236	53
Land in farms (acres)	829,926	634,270
Average size of farms (acres)	6,859	7,642
Farms by size: (number)		
Less than 1,000 acres	48	37
1,000 acres or more	73	46
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)		
Less than \$100,000	93	74
\$100,000 or more	28	9
Farms by type of organization: (number)		
Family, Individual, Partnership	108	78
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	13	5
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested		
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)		
Cattle and calves	16,026	6,228
Hogs and pigs	(D)	-
Sheep and lambs	571	(D)
Horses and ponies	647	512
Bison	(D)	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	0	0
Crops Harvested (acres)		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	-	-
Wheat for grain, All	43,985	15,246
Winter wheat for grain	(D)	-
Durum wheat for grain	(D)	-
Spring wheat for grain	42,422	15,246
Barley for grain	1,295	605
Oats for grain	(D)	-
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	-	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	17,608	6,195
Operator Demographics		
Primary occupation: (number)	236	53
Farming	829,926	634,270
Other	6,859	7,642
Place of residence: (number)		
On farm operated	48	37
Not on farm operated	73	46
Years on present farm: (number)		
Less than 10 years	93	74
10 years or more	28	9
Age group: (number)		
Under 55 years	108	78
55 years and over	13	5
Average age of operators: (number)		

(D): Not Disclosable Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Fort Belknap Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Household Income: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Family Income: In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	53.3%	54.4%
Renter Occupied	46.7%	45.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Belknap Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
 - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
 - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
 - Did any work as paid employees
 - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
 - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
 - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
 - Available for work
 - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
 - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
 - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
 - Available for work
 - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
 - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
 - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
MT Dept. of Labor & Industry*	2005	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	1,086	836	250	23.0%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	2,794	849	1,945	69.6%

**Rates for Fort Belknap cannot be calculated due to lack of unemployment insurance data.*

Fort Belknap Wage & Salary Employment

Annual Averages 2005 - 2006

Industry	2005		2006		Employ. Growth	Wage Growth
	Employ.	Wages	Employ.	Wages		
Total	333	\$33,880	336	\$36,636	0.8%	8.1%
Total Private	28	\$13,321	31	\$16,980	9.8%	27.5%
Service Providing	28	\$13,321	30	\$15,183	7.1%	14.0%
Retail Trade	13	\$12,758	14	\$12,825	5.1%	0.5%
Total Government	305	\$35,721	305	\$38,619	-0.1%	8.1%
Federal Government	148	\$46,051	147	\$50,602	-0.8%	9.9%
Local Government*	157	\$25,984	158	\$27,477	0.6%	5.7%

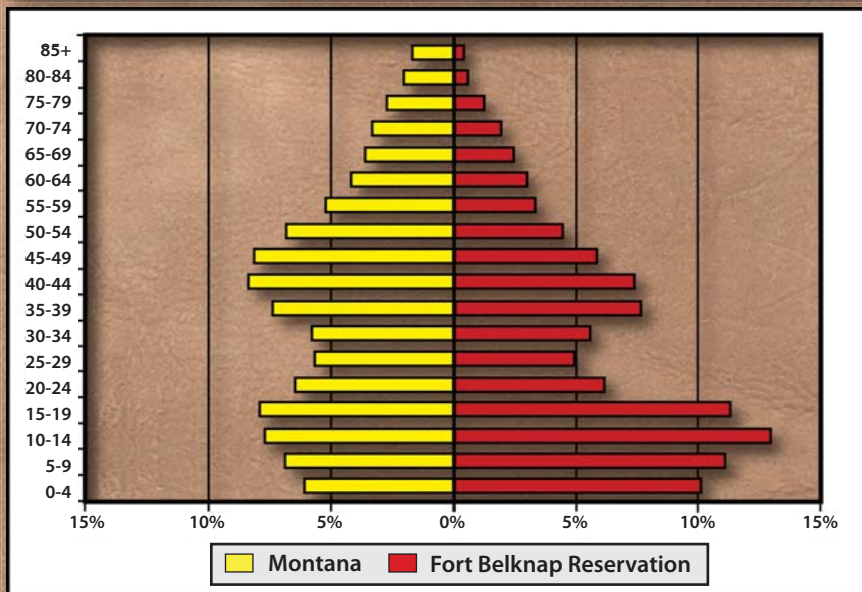
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Does not include Fort Belknap Tribal Government

Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses

Fort Belknap Reservation - Population Pyramid

Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Belknap Reservation - Occupation by Gender

Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indians
Total:	836	769
Male:	408	374
Mgmt., professional, and related occupations	121	98
Service occupations	89	87
Sales and office occupations	24	24
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	15	15
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occs.	100	91
Production, transport., and material moving occs.	59	59
Female:	428	395
Management, professional, and related occs.	185	165
Service occupations	92	92
Sales and office occupations	149	136
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	2	2
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occs.	0	0
Production, transport., and material moving occs.	0	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Belknap Reservation - Educational Attainment

Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	18.0%	17.7%
Associate Degree	13.9%	14.5%
Bachelor's Degree	9.1%	8.1%
Master's Degree	3.1%	2.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

American Indian and Total Population for Fort Belknap Reservation and Related Areas

	American Indian Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fort Belknap Reservation	2,790	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blaine County	3,160	3,080	3,087	3,084	3,081	3,130	3,142
Fort Belknap Agency CDP*	1,207	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hays CDP*	664	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lodge Pole CDP*	207	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Phillips County	342	342	340	342	351	343	353

	Total Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fort Belknap Reservation	2,959	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blaine County	7,009	6,824	6,816	6,763	6,659	6,634	6,615
Fort Belknap Agency CDP*	1,262	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hays CDP*	702	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lodge Pole CDP*	214	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Phillips County	4,601	4,446	4,351	4,257	4,225	4,135	4,098

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

Fort Belknap Information



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1,000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$0.39 per copy, for a total cost of \$386.76 which includes \$386.76 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.